

OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

MARCH 2012



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Lions



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Step into
Spring



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Awareness



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Caring for
Oak Trees



LOS ALTOS HILLS BY THE NUMBERS

7,922

Total population

1,838

Total population of
persons 65 and over

919

Total population
of female persons
65 and over

89.2%

Seniors that plan
to remain in their
homes as they age



An Age-Friendly Community

Los Altos Hills and Los Altos are the first cities in California to be accepted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities. This membership can bring benefits not only to local seniors but also to all residents of our community. The Age-Friendly Cities concept is an international effort to encourage and support intergenerational communities that are sensitive to worldwide aging populations. Each Age-Friendly City commits to a five-year cycle of dialogue and assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation phases which involve community members over the course of several years to determine what and how each city envisions becoming "age-friendlier."

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Many of the policies that define an age-friendly city also offer benefits that transcend one particular generation or group of residents and extend to the entire community.

Senior Commission Key

Recognizing that our community is home to many dynamic, active, older residents, the Town of Los Altos Hills and City of Los Altos formed a joint Senior Commission. The Commission's aim is to make recommendations about programs and resources appropriate for seniors in the community and address the specific needs of an aging population, such as keeping aging residents in their homes, or looking at steps designed to make the existing environs age-friendlier.

"We are delighted that the World Health Organization accepted the City of Los Altos and the Town of Los Altos Hills into their Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities" stated Dr. Anabel Pelham, Senior Commissioner. "This program will guide and support the efforts of our joint Senior Commission as we seek innovative approaches to meeting the needs of our growing senior populations."

WHO process

The WHO program is a thoughtful, systematic multi-year process aimed at identifying and evaluating issues and opportunities, followed by careful

planning and implementation. In addition, joining the age-friendly cities network gives our community access to ideas, experts, and best-practices on this topic that we would not otherwise have. Just as important, the Town is much more likely to be able to qualify for grants and other assistance relating to age-related programs as a result of this process. These additional resources will benefit all residents.

Survey Says

The Commission has already begun the fact-finding portion of the WHO program, recently conducting a survey of local residents. Survey respondents were generally over the age of 60,

- Transportation—a real challenge for aging population in a geographically dispersed community
- Active lifestyle—respondents intend to stay active and engaged with friends and the community
- Emergency preparedness—unique challenge for seniors living in a semi-rural earthquake zone
- Senior center outdated—a number of respondents talked about the need for a facility upgrade, as other area communities have done
- Walking and biking infrastructure—a walking community is a healthy community, but lack of sidewalks, bike paths, and streetlights, as well as uneven pavement, are all challenges

Members of the Senior Commission are working actively with graduate students at San Francisco State University Gerontology Program to evaluate this and other relevant data to develop policy recommendations. Residents can follow the Commission's work online at the www.losaltoshills.ca.gov website by searching for "senior commission." Of course, not all seniors are computer savvy, but it's likely that they have children or grandchildren who are handy with computers and can help access this information.

Intergenerational Benefits

Many of the policies that define an age-friendly city also offer benefits that transcend one particular generation or group of residents and extend to the entire community. For example, a few additional seconds for traffic lights at the crosswalk are good not only for seniors but also for kids making the trek to school each morning; similarly, working streetlights and traffic abatement policies improve safety for all residents of the community.

SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

The Senior Commission has identified resources and opportunities available to seniors in our community and compiled them in one easy-to-access document. This resource guide is intended as a listing of available services and senior-oriented activities. The guide provides basic contact information for nearby services available to seniors in the areas of education, food, health, housing, social activities, and transportation. Find the guide online at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

retired, living with a spouse or partner, and intended to stay in their homes as they age. The vast majority reported active social lives and engagement in community learning and volunteering opportunities. Many relied on their car for transportation in and around town.

The survey highlighted a number of important issues to local residents already in or nearing retirement. Here are some of the key themes captured in the survey:



TO LEARN MORE:

Visit: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/standing-committees/lalah-senior-commitmission



The Town's Public Works Department has its hands full maintaining the Town's 57 miles of public road right-of-ways; drainage facilities; 85 miles of pathways; and 158 acres of open space and parks. The Public Works Department is also responsible for assisting in emergency cleanups, such as a fallen tree or mudslide blocking a roadway.

Yard Duty

Because of its importance in keeping the Town humming, it is essential that the public works crew operate from a clean, safe, and properly equipped maintenance facility. The Town's corporation yard, located at 27400 Purissima Road adjacent to Purissima Park, has served that purpose very well. The corporation yard includes a



5,000-square-foot, two-story, barn-like structure used to house Public Works staff office space, equipment storage, a light repair and maintenance facility, and archive file storage. The structure was originally built in 1980. However, the structure failed to comply with current

building safety codes and was showing the effects of more than 30 years of wear and tear.

As a result, the City Council authorized three hundred thousand dollars in the current budget for a comprehensive structural upgrade to the facility. The work started in August and consisted of improvements to the existing wood framing and sheathing; new lateral-force-resisting elements; new structural steel beams and columns; new foundation; relocation of utilities; removal and replacement of existing roofing; miscellaneous work as required to complete the structural upgrade; and repairs to existing finishes.

The biggest expenses on the project were upgrades to the vertical structure, which included new posts, studs, shear wall, beams, hold-downs, headers, and all the clips, straps, bolts, and plates that go along with it. The other big-ticket item was reinforcing the foundation, which required eight new piers drilled about 12 feet deep.

The project was completed on time and significantly under budget. The Public Works staff takes pride in their workplace, and the crew pitched in by doing all of the interior and exterior painting and most of the flooring work. Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Jacob Asfour estimates that the facility is now good to go for easily another 30 years.

Carl Cahill, City Manager

BUILDING PERMITS ON THE RISE

The Planning and Building Department enjoyed a busy year in 2011, issuing 516 building permits with a total construction valuation of nearly \$43 million. The Department also conducted 2,125 building inspections and finalized 442 building permits. The following chart shows the number of major permits issued in 2011 compared with the previous year.

Building Permits Issued	2011	2010
New Residence	20	16
Addition	38	32
Interior Remodel	71	47
Secondary Dwelling Unit	6	5
Swimming Pool	22	19
Solar	47	58

Fence Permit Process

In October 2011, the Town conducted an online survey about the fence permit process. Out of the 933 residents enrolled in the Town's online survey program, 582 (62%) responded to the survey. Based on the survey results, the ad hoc fence committee is recommending that neighbor notification be required as part of the fence permit process.

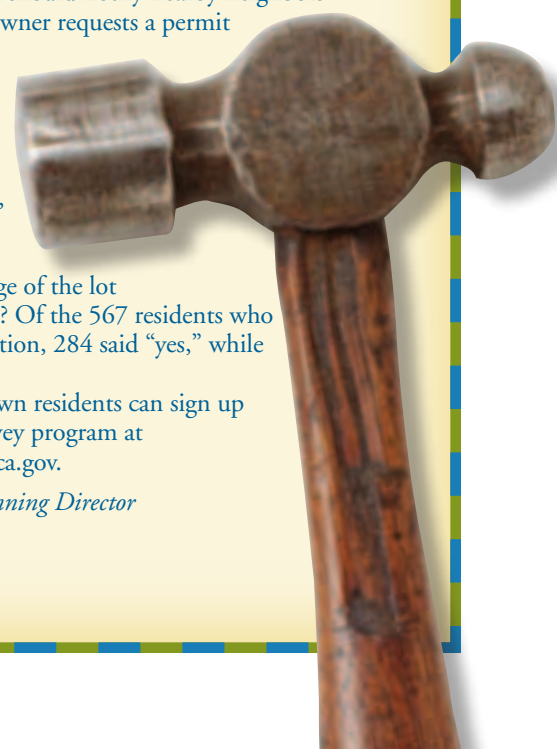
Fence Survey Highlights

Roughly two-thirds of survey respondents agreed that barrier fences and walls be set back from property lines, and that the Town should notify nearby neighbors when a property owner requests a permit to build a fence.

One question divided opinion right down the middle: On lots two acres or larger, should the Town have the ability to limit the percentage of the lot that can be fenced? Of the 567 residents who answered the question, 284 said "yes," while 283 said "no."

Remember, Town residents can sign up for the online survey program at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director



Rescue Me



Disasters like fire and earthquake hit unexpectedly, but fortunately you can do something to prepare yourself in advance. There will be excellent opportunities for this in the next few months, as the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) is offering a series of Emergency Preparedness classes.

They are free of charge and open to all residents of the LAH County Fire District.

LAHCFD teaches four types of classes: Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP), Senior PEP, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and CPR training.

Both CERT and CPR training is available this spring, and PEP and Senior PEP in the fall.

CERT classes teach citizens basic disaster response skills so that they can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace in a disaster, when professional fire and medical services are not immediately available to help. Following a major disaster, first responders are often not able to immediately meet all the demand for these services. Communication failures and road blockages can also prevent people from accessing emergency services easily.

During disasters, people will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. Under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake, where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

CERT training can be taken after completing the PEP class. The cost for the class is \$90 per student, which will be reimbursed by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District after completion of the course.

The CERT program educates

people about hazards that may impact their area and trains them in response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

CPR for Family and Friends

This course is designed for anyone who wants to learn rescue skills that can be helpful when caring for loved ones. You will learn Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for adults, infants, and children, as well as procedures for aiding a choking

victim. The course includes a two-year certification Heart Saver CPR Certificate. A brief AED overview instruction will also be included in this course, without certification. In order to take the CPR class, you must have first taken a PEP or Senior PEP class taught by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District.

Since the inception of the Emergency Preparedness program four years ago, over 1,050 people have trained in PEP and over 150 citizens have been certified in the CERT program.

The classes are presented in cooperation by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and

Santa Clara County Fire Department. To register, go to: www.lahcfd.org.

For more information regarding this or any other disaster-related classes, contact Mike Sanders at 650-922-1055 or by email at mike.sanders@cmt.sccgov.org.

CERT DATES

April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 19

Prerequisite: You must have completed the Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) or Senior PEP class. Classes are held at Los Altos Hills Town Hall Community Room, 26379 Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills.

CPR DATES

All CPR classes at El Monte Fire Stations

March 10, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

April 21, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

May 19, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

PEP DATES

September 26, 6:00 – 9:30 pm

November 3, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

SENIOR PEP DATES

September 29, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

October 30 & Nov. 1, 4:00 – 6:00pm
(must attend both classes)

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Environmental Design and Protection Committee of Los Altos Hills is seeking new members. One of the original volunteer committees set up by the Town, the Committee is charged "to work for the beautification of the Town, to identify sources of pollution, and to review and inspect plantings."

Committee members work closely with the Planning Department, visiting each month the sites of new work in the Town—new houses, remodels, and landscaping—with one Committee member present at the subsequent site development meeting with the applicant.

The Committee is looking for people who want to be part of a team conserving the natural beauty of Los Altos Hills, willing and able to give up to five hours a month of their time to interesting and varied work that really does make a difference to the Town.

For more information, contact Pat Ley at 650-941-1674 or ley.pat@gmail.com.



The Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee recently held a forum on mountain lions in response to several mountain lion sightings in the Town. The forum revealed fascinating facts about the behavior of these wild cats.

To start with, Captain Don Kelly with the Enforcement Division of the California Department of Fish and Game offered some telling statistics for anyone living in fear of mountain lions: Since 1890, there have been only 16 mountain lion attacks on people in California. Statistics show that you are 8,000 times more likely to be hit by lightning than attacked by a mountain lion.

In North America as a whole, only 21 people have been killed by mountain lions in the past 120 years, all in remote regions. No known attacks have taken place in a populated, residential area.

"Mountain lions are not looking for humans. They eat deer, rabbits, and raccoons. Humans don't taste good to lions," Kelly explained.

Other speakers on the panel were Henry Coletto, retired County Game Warden; Captain Carl Neusel, Chief of the West Valley Division of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office; and Yiwei Wang, a conservation biologist at UC Santa Cruz currently doing research on the migratory paths of mountain lions in the Santa Cruz Mountain Range.

Panelists explained that mountain lions are very, solitary secretive creatures. The presence of people is off-putting to them, and loud noises will usually send them scampering away. Captain Kelly recalled once scaring a mountain lion away in a dark forest simply by waving his flashlight once in the lion's direction.

Nevertheless, sightings of mountain lions are periodically reported by residents. In the past six months, there appears to be an increase in mountain lion sightings by residents.

What to do if you see a mountain lion while hiking or camping? First rule: make a lot of noise. Second rule: appear large by lifting your arms and waving. Third rule: do not flee. Back away slowly. Fleeing will bring out the animal's hunting instinct. In most cases the mountain lion will back away when it encounters humans.

In the extremely rare event a person is attacked, he or she must fight back. Hitting the lion's eyes with fingers or a sharp object is effective.

If you see a mountain lion and feel threatened, a call to 911 will connect you to the Sheriff's office, which will dispatch a deputy.

On the other hand, if no threat is imminent, you may have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in front of you. "Have a camera at the ready," Captain Kelly remarked. How often do we get an opportunity to observe a wild animal? Charles Knowles, a Town resident and founder of Wildlife Conservation Network, told the crowd he had observed a mountain lion for three hours, and taken numerous pictures of it, at Windmill Pasture a few months ago.

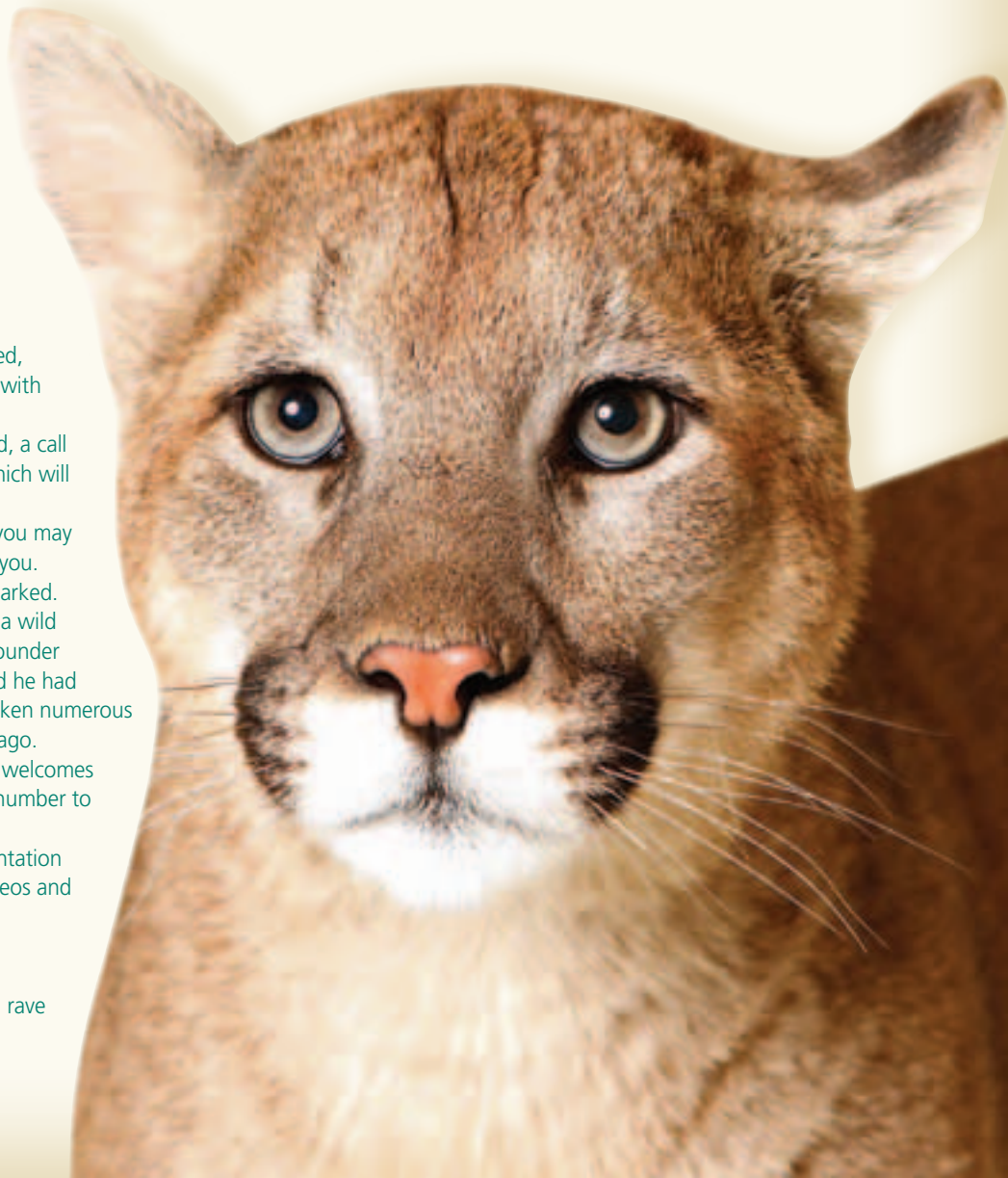
The California Department of Fish and Game welcomes information about mountain lion sightings. The number to call is 1-707-944-5531.

UC Santa Cruz mountain lion habitat fragmentation researchers offer an informative website with videos and a blog and at www.santacruzpumas.org

More than 75 residents attended the forum, which can be viewed at the Town's website at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov. The forum has received rave reviews by attendees, as well as those who have viewed it online.

MOUNTAIN LIONS

IN OUR
MIDST



Step Into Spring

This spring, Parks and Recreation is offering exciting options for all ages and interests. A complete listing of classes, times, and location can be found in the Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Activity Guide. Since some class sizes are limited, sign up as early as possible. Please contact Sarah Gualtieri with any questions or to register at 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov. The Activity Guide is also available online at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/parks-and-recreation/activity-guide

Youth Classes:
Learn to Fence!
Green Bean Kidz
Spring Break Riding
Camp
A Day at the Barn
Star Gazing

Adult Classes:
The Happy Body -
Seminars
Stepping Strong
Pilates with Teresa
Pam's Yoga Fitness
Star Gazing
Thank Dog! Bootcamp
Bridge Club
Yoga Walks

Yoga Walks

Among the new offerings is Yoga Walks, led by yoga teacher Amy Santullo. These walks offer an opportunity to take your yoga practice outside. Ninety-minute classes include about 45 minutes of yoga poses and 45 minutes of walking, including a walking meditation. No yoga experience is necessary. Good walking shoes and comfortable clothes are sufficient gear.

Amy Santullo has been practicing yoga since 1997. She holds a teaching certificate from the Iyengar Yoga Institute of San Francisco. Her classes focus on bringing a balance of effort and ease to promote a healthy body and a peaceful mind. Santullo serves on The Art of Yoga Project Board of Directors and has a Master's Degree in Education Policy Analysis and Evaluation from Stanford University.

Not sure if Yoga Walks is for you? Join Amy for a free trial class on Tuesday March 6, 9:00 – 10:30 am. Please RSVP to amy@santullo.com. Include your name and cell phone number so the instructor can contact you in case of cancellation due to weather.

Yoga Walks classes meet Tuesdays at Westwind Community Barn parking area for five weeks, 9:00 – 10:30 am. Session I takes place from March 13 to April 17 (no class on April 3). Session II takes place from April 24 to May 22.



Thank Dog! Bootcamp

A unique combination of weight training, cardiovascular exercise, and dog training will give both you and your four-legged friend a workout while teaching correct canine behavior. The one and only Thank Dog! Bootcamp is now offered for the first time through Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation.

Thank Dog! Bootcamp originated in Southern California and is now being introduced to Northern California by Cassie Shannon, who grew up in Los Altos. "The class is really fun, it makes you feel good, you are doing something nice for your pet, and you are getting a great workout," Shannon said. Classes are offered in the mornings and evenings, which allows those with day jobs to attend before or after work.

Shannon has first-hand experience of the benefits of training with a dog. After a car accident ended Shannon's track and field career at the University of Arizona, she gradually got back into running with her rescue dog, Lola, at her side.

One-on-one consultation is required prior to class registration. You can sign up to take classes at either or both locations. For more information visit www.ThankDogBootcamp.com or contact Cassie at 650-823-5271 or Cassie@ThankDogBootcamp.com and ask about a free trial class.





11th Annual Pathways Run/Walk: Run with the Wind

On May 12th, get your running shoes on and head to Westwind Community Barn. Run through the Byrne Preserve, and into the Los Altos Hills Pathways system. This annual event features a 5K and 10K Pathways Run/Walk and a 1-Mile Fun Run. To register, volunteer, or for more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518, sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov or visit the event website at www.lahpathwaysrun.org. The 5K and 10K races start at 9:00 am. Fee is \$30 in advance or \$35 on the day of the event. Group registrations of 10 or more are \$20 per person. The 1-Mile Fun Run takes off at 10:30 am, fee is \$15.

LAHF Easter Egg Hunt

Come catch a peek at the Easter Bunny and paint your Easter eggs with friends. LAHF hosts a family friendly Easter event on April 7th, 11:00 am -1:00 pm at Purissima Park. Bring hard-boiled eggs—decorations and dye kits will be available. Pack a picnic lunch and bring your camera.

Ninth Annual Hoppin' Hounds Easter Biscuit Hunt

It's the ninth annual Doggie Easter Biscuit Hunt in Los Altos Hills. Bring your pooch and hunt through Byrne Preserve in search of dog-healthy Easter biscuits while catching up with all your canine companions. This exciting, on-leash event is held to benefit the Palo Alto Animal Services shelter. A \$5 donation is recommended. All proceeds will go directly to Palo Alto Animal Services. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov. Meet on April 7 at 9:00 am at Byrne Preserve.



Earth Day Celebration

This year's Earth Day celebration will be held on Sunday, April 22. Bring cash or check for a green shopping experience. Los Altos Hills hats, lotion, seeds, wine glasses, produce, and much more will be on sale. In addition to exhibits by Los Altos Hills Committees, local environmental organizations, and school groups, the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund will present their wildly popular live educational program. The wild cats will appear twice, at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm. Reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking, or carpooling and bring a reusable water bottle. Please no dogs. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov. Meet on April 22 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Westwind Community Barn.



15TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS

TOWN PICNIC

Mark your calendar now for the Fifteenth Annual Town Picnic, to be held on Sunday, June 3, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The picnic will be at Purissima Park located on Purissima Road at the intersection of Viscaino Road.

The Picnic features games, live entertainment, and a delicious barbeque lunch. Highlights this year will include the return of some favorites from past picnics, including a spirited live band, expanded large inflatable attractions, Classic Car Show returning for its sixth year, Lionel model trains, children's games, pony rides, and various crafts.

Tasty chicken, all-beef hot dogs, and vegetarian meals will be cooked by our terrific Santa Clara County firefighters from Local No. 1165, and served with special firefighters chili, tossed salad, and warm garlic bread. Soft drinks, select beers and wines, and our wildly popular ice cream sundaes will be plentiful.



All Los Altos Hills residents and Town staff are warmly invited to this free event, but note that the event is for Town residents only. So please do not invite your friends, relatives, or co-workers who are not Town residents. The Town Picnic is the major annual community event for all Los Altos Hills residents. It is organized and produced by the Community Relations Committee, with help from many Town volunteers. Encourage your LAH friends and neighbors to come along and join the fun. Please note that dogs are not permitted on the fields. A

Picnic flyer with a registration coupon will be mailed to all Town residents in late April.

Advance registration is required by Tuesday, May 22 to allow the correct number of meals to be ordered. Tables, chairs, and many large canopies are provided, so that adverse weather does not cancel the picnic.





Have you or someone you know suffered a stroke? The answer to that question is likely yes. In the United States, on average, every 40 seconds someone has a “brain attack” or stroke. Every four minutes someone dies of stroke. These are sobering statistics—yet some strokes are preventable. It’s important to know your risk factors and the warning symptoms of stroke. Local non-profit Peninsula Stroke Association’s (PSA’s) mission is to educate community members on stroke, and support those who have suffered a stroke.

Gary Curtis, Chairman of the PSA Board of Directors, has been involved with PSA for over a decade. He first became familiar with PSA while CEO of Concentric Medical, the first company to finish a trial lessening the consequences of an acute stroke through active intervention. Curtis joins Los Altos Hills resident Mike Elliot, also a Board member, and

STROKE AWARENESS CAN SAVE LIVES

countless other volunteers who work tirelessly year-round to raise awareness in our community about the warning signs of stroke, post-stroke support services, and educational lectures PSA provides to local residents.

Tune in to KMTV Channel 15’s “AAUW Connections” from January to April, for a conversation about what stroke is and hear the story of a stroke survivor and her caregiver.

Do you know the warning signs of stroke?

- Sudden difficulty talking or understanding words.
- Sudden loss of feeling or strange sensations on one side.
- Sudden weakness on one side of the face, arm, or leg.
- Sudden decreased or blurred vision.
- Sudden unexplained dizziness or loss of balance.

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in volunteering with PSA? Please call 650-565-8485 or visit www.psastroke.org for more information about programs, services, and volunteer opportunities.

Remember, if you believe you or someone you know is having a stroke, call 9-1-1. It can save a life because the first three hours are critical.

BCS Home to Teacher of the Year

Bullis Charter School (BCS) is proud to have on its faculty the 2011 Santa Clara County Charter School Teacher of the Year, Lisa Stone. Ms. Stone is a founding teacher at BCS, and she has been responsible for annual improvements in the STAR scores for every grade level, class, and academic area that she has taught during her tenure at BCS. When asked about the key to her students' success, the phrase "test scores" is nowhere to be found in her response.



Instead, Ms. Stone says that "it's all about high expectations." She says that setting the bar high, combined with explicit feedback from the teacher and thoughtful self-evaluation by the student, gives students an opportunity to improve and really feel a sense of accomplishment.

"They might not always want to receive the feedback," she offers, "but being a teacher is not always about being popular. I know my students and hold them to high personal standards because this is how they can best succeed." Ms. Stone's students say much the same thing when asked about her effectiveness. Current BCS seventh grader Adam Niebylski thinks that it's a good thing when a teacher, like Ms. Stone, expects a lot from a student: "It gives you a short-cut," he claims, "because you improve faster." Haley Winner, a Los Altos High School student who was Ms. Stone's student in both fifth and sixth grades at BCS, attests to Ms. Stone's transformative influence. "She whipped me into shape by teaching the fundamentals of learning, and has been one the most influential and inspirational adults of my educational career."

Putting the Fun in Fundraising

The Gardner Bullis PTA conducts a robust fundraising program throughout the year to support programs such as art, lunchtime activity-based learning, Project Cornerstone, and the Living Classroom.

The two major fundraisers at Gardner Bullis are the Walkathon and the Annual Auction. In the Walkathon, students walk laps around the school campus to earn pledges from family and other friends of Gardner Bullis.

The Annual Auction is likewise a community-builder — but it is a parents-only event. Held each spring, the Auction supports our children's education with items donated by parents, the community and local businesses. Every auction features vacations, jewelry, and sports tickets — though the most highly-contested item each year has been a reserved parking spot in the increasingly crowded school parking lot! Combined with dinner and dancing, the Auction provides

a wonderful evening for the parents and school community. This year's Auction is on March 31.

In addition to the fundraising events, the Gardner Bullis PTA also solicits local enterprises to sponsor community life at our school. Realtors, restaurants, stores, banks, law firms, dentists, and other businesses all have recognized the value of the Los Altos public schools, as well as the community and property value they support.

With the strong support of its parents and local businesses, Gardner Bullis will be able to continue to provide its students with creative learning experiences and provide the community with an outstanding local public school. If you would like to participate in the school's fundraising efforts, please contact Wendy Grant (wgrant@cordblood.com) or Nikki Selden (nrselden@aol.com).



Caring for Oak Trees

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) has continued to spread in Los Altos Hills and elsewhere in the Bay Area, according to results from the 2011 SOD Blitz. SOD infection levels increased compared to 2010, and the disease was found in new areas of Town.

The Los Altos Hills SOD Blitz was one of 16 events organized by Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, U.C. Berkeley researcher and discoverer of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes SOD. Nearly 500 residents around the Bay Area participated, making this one of the largest citizen-scientist events in the country. About 10,000 leaf samples from 2,000 trees covering 50,000 acres of woodlands and parks were collected and tested.

During the May 2011 SOD Blitz, Los Altos Hills residents were trained to identify symptoms of SOD on California Bay Laurel trees (which harbor SOD and spread it to oaks) and collected suspect leaves for testing at U.C. Berkeley. Nearly 19% (26/139) of the samples collected in Los Altos Hills in 2011 showed SOD infection compared to only 4% (5/126) of samples collected in 2010. SOD

was found in spots along Moody Road, in Byrne Preserve and Juan Prado Mesa Preserve, and along Adobe, Hale, and Matadero Creeks. No evidence of infection was found in Los Altos Hills east of I-280, probably because the habitat there is less favorable for the pathogen.

Portola Valley, Woodside, and Foothills Park have more SOD than Los Altos Hills. Foothills Park is heavily infested, with many dead and dying oaks. Areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Town are also severely affected — 97% (72/74) of samples from trees along Skyline Boulevard between Page Mill Road and Highway 17 tested positive for SOD.

To view the results of the 2010 and 2011 SOD Blitzes and to learn more about SOD and how to protect your oaks, visit the Garbelotto lab web site at: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodblitzresults2010.php>.

The 2012 SOD Blitz will be held Saturday, May 26, 10:30 am, at the Town Hall. All residents are encouraged to join in this opportunity to check for SOD in their neighborhoods. Email sodblitz09@earthlink.net for further information.



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the Town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is April 1, 2012.**

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

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Los Altos Hills City Council

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Gary Waldeck, Vice Mayor

Jean Mordo

John Radford

Ginger Summit

CALENDAR

March 10

Saturday, 11:00 am
Reading Buddies
Los Altos Library. For children in grades K to 5. Offered on a drop-in basis; no need to register ahead of time.

Saturday, 2:00 pm
Afternoon Family Movie
Los Altos Library

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Sunday, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Reception and Art Exhibit at Town Hall
Local artist Jacqueline Norheim. See Our Town December 2011 Issue, page 7.

Sunday, 2:00 pm
Guided Walk
Meeting place: Town Hall parking lot. Bring water and allow at least 2 hours. Rain cancels.



April 7

Saturday, 9:00 am
Hoppin' Hounds Easter Biscuit Hunt
Bring your dog to Byrne Preserve for on-leash biscuit hunt benefiting Palo Alto Animal Services shelter. \$5 donation requested. 650-947-2518.

Saturday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
LAHF Easter Egg Hunt at Purissima Park
Bring hard-boiled eggs—decorations and dye kits available. Pack a picnic lunch. The Easter Bunny will hop by; don't forget your camera.

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Saturday, 1:00 pm
Los Altos Hills Historical Society (LAHHS) General Meeting. Filoli Country Estate and Gardens. Two-hour guided tour. RSVP Lana, (650) 776-9226. www.losaltoshillshistory.org



22

Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Earth Day Celebration
Farmers market and much more. Wild cats and reptiles will be featured. 650-947-2518



May 12

Saturday, 9:00 am
Pathways Run/Walk
For more information and to register, visit www.lahpathwaysrun.org.



June 3

Sunday, 1:00 - 4:30 pm
Town Picnic at Purissima Park. Open to all residents of Los Altos Hills. Must make reservations to attend. Look for flyer in May with more information.

Calendar events are also posted on Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov